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Message Text

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71
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /083 W
---------- 111038
P 030032Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6761
INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA
AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO
AMCONSUL MATAMOROS
AMCONSUL MERIDA
AMCONSUL MAZATLAN
AMCONSUL MONTERREY
AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO
AMCONSUL TIJUANA

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E.O. 11652: EXEMPT
TAGS: PINT/MX
SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY RESULTS IN MEXICAN FEDERAL DEPUTY ELECTIONS.

REF: MEXICO 4717

AIRGRAM-39, FEBRUARY 2, 1973.

1. WHILE FINAL ELECTION RESULTS NOT YET AVAILABLE, SOME PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS CAN BE MADE ON MEXICO'S JULY 1 FEDERAL DEPUTY ELECTIONS. OVERWHELMING IMPRESSION ONE OF MASSIVE VOTER TURNOUT, INCLUDING LAST MINUTE VOTER REGISTRATIONS CONTINUING AS LATE AS SIX O'CLOCK ON EVENING OF ELECTION DAY. PRI ALMOST CERTAINLY VICTORIOUS IN ALMOST ALL LOCALITITES. HOWEVER, PRI LEADERSHIP TALKING IN TERMS OF ONLY 51 PERCENT MAJORITY
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IN FEDERAL DISTRICT, WHICH IF BORNE OUT BY OFFICIAL RESULTS

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WOULD BE SMALLEST PRI MAJORITY IN PARTY HISTORY. PAN LEADERSHIP VERY CONFIDENT OF HIGH VOTE, PREDICTING 20 PERCENT OF NATIONAL VOTE AND POSSIBLY AS HIGH AS 40 PERCENT OF FEDERAL DISTRICT VOTE GOING TO PAN. PAN PRESIDENT JOSE ANGEL CONCHELLO TOLD PRESS SUNDAY EVENING THAT EARLY RETURNS IN SELECTED FEDERAL DISTRICT POLLING PLACES SHOWED PAN OUTRIGHT VICTOR IN SEVERAL, ALTHOUGH BY NARROW MARGINS. IN MONDAY LATE AFTERNOON EDITIONS, PAN CLAIMED AT LEAST SIX MAJORITY VICTORIES, THREE IN FEDERAL DISTRICT, TWO IN PUEBLA, AND ONE IN MONTERREY. PRI HOTLY DENIED PAN CLAIM AND DECLARED TOTAL PRI VICTORY. PAN, APPARENTLY IN DEADLY EARNEST, THREATENING TO WITHDRAW FROM LEGISLATURE ALTOGETHER IF SIX MAJORITY VICTORIES NOT RECOGNIZED. HOWEVER, SUCH DRASTIC ACTION UNLIKELY, AS UNDER NEW FEDERAL ELECTORAL LAWJ N SANCTIONS FOR PARTY WITHDRAWAL OF VICTORIOUS CANDIDATES AFTER THE ELECTION COULD RESULT IN THE SUSPENSION OF THE PARTY'S REGISTRATION FOR A PERIOD OF SIX YEARS, THUS ELIMINATING PAN FROM THE 1976 ELECTIONS (SEE REFAIR). FURTHER, PAN PRESIDENT CONCHELLO PLEDGED THAT IN THIS ELECTION PAN CANDIDATES WOULD NOT ACCEPT SEATS UNLESS ACTUALLY AMONG 25 TOP PAN CANDIDATES ACCORDING TO VOTE, AND THAT PAN WOULD REJECT ALL ATTEMPTS AT "NEGOTIATING" THEIR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SEATS. (IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS, PAN HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT IRREGULARITIES IN CHOOSING PAN DEPUTIES CLAIMING THAT PRI DOCTORED ELECTION RETURNS IN ORDER TO SELECT OPPOSITION DEPUTIES OF THEIR OWN CHOOSING.)

2. FINALLY EVEN PARM CLAIMED MAJORITY VICTORIES, ONE IN OAXACA AND ONE IN TAMAULIPAS, BUT THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO PUSH THE MATTER. ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES CLAIMING INCREASED REPRESENTATION UNDER PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION, PPS CLAIMING 25 AND PARM 10. PAN WILL CERTAINLY GARNER 25, THE CONSTITUTIONAL LIMIT, PROVIDED THEY DO NOT WITHDRAW.

3. OPPOSITION PARM AND PPS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ELECTORAL PROCEEDINGS, CALLING IT "CLEANEST ELECTION EVER". PAN HOWEVER REPORTED VARIOUS ELECTION IRREGULARITIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY; I.E., PAN REPRESENTATIVE NOT ADMITTED TO POLLING PLACE IN MERIDA, POLLING PLACES NOT OPENED UNTIL AFTER MID-DAY IN MANY LOCALITIES, AND IN GUADALAJARA VOTERS PERMITTED TO VOTE AT RANDOM POLLING PLACES, REGARDLESS OF RESIDENCE OR PLACE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

REGISTRATION. PRI COUNTERED THESE CHARGES WITH COMPLAINTS OF VARIOUS VIOLATIONS BY PAN SUPPORTERS IN FEDERAL DISTRICT. PARTICULARLY OBJECTIONABLE WAS PARISH PRIEST WHO ORGANIZED PAN RALLY IN FRONT OF POLLING PLACE. HOWEVER, REPORTED VIOLATIONS WERE MINOR. NO COMPLAINTS YET OF VOTE STEALING, BALLOT STUFFING, OR COUNTING IRREGULARITIES. GENERAL IMPRESSION QUIET, ORDERLY, AND CONSIDERABLY MORE "CORRECT" THAN IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS.

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4. CONSIDERABLE PREPARATIONS MADE TO CONTROL EXPECTED VIOLENCE AND/OR DISTURBANCES, (ARMED TROOPS PATROLLED STREETS OF PUEBLA FOR EXAMPLE), BUT DISTURBANCES DID NOT MATERIALIZE. SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE REPORTED VOTING QUIET THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. "DRY LAW" IN EFFECT AND STRICTLY ENFORCED BEGINNING TWENTY-FOUR HOURS PRIOR TO POLLS OPENING.

5. CLEARLY OVERWHELMING SUCCESS OF SUNDAY'S ELECTION WAS HIGH VOTER TURNOUT. FINAL FIGURES NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT PRESS ACCOUNTS AND EYE WITNESS REPORTS OF EMBASSY OFFICERS CONFIRM EXTRAORDINARILY LONG LINES AT POLPWNG PLACES THROUGHOUT THE FEDERAL DISTRICT. THE ONLY LOCALITY REPORTING SIGNIFICANTLY LOW VOTER TURNOUT WAS NUEVO LEON, WHERE VOTER TURNOUT ESTIMATED AT LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS. THIS HOWEVER, BELIEVED TO BE SPECIAL CASE ATTRIBUTABLE TO LOCAL DISSATISFACTION WITH IMPOSED PRI CANDIDATE. (SEE REFTEL.)

6. EMBASSY WILL FORWARD FURTHER DETAILS AS AVAILABLE. FINAL FIGURES EXPECTED LATE AFTERNOON OF JULY 2. ANALYSIS TO FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.
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